



County Borough of Reading

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1953

By

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1953

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Audiometric Investigations ...	19
Avenue School ...	13, 16
Child Guidance Clinic ...	35
Child Guidance Treatment ...	40
Delicate Children ...	13
Deaf and Partially Deaf ...	19
Defects found by Medical Inspection (Table) ...	10
Dental Service... ..	28
Education Committee ...	3
Epilepsy	20
Eye Diseases, etc. ...	40
Games	31
Handicapped Children	11-16
Heart, Discases of ...	21-23
Home Teaching ...	15, 16
Infectious Diseases (School Children)	39
Mantoux Tests	18
Meals in Schools	28
Medical Inspections	9
Milk in Schools	28

	<i>Page</i>
Nutrition	27
Periodic Medical Inspections	9
Physical Education	31
Playing Fields	32
Poliomyelitis	23-26
Population (School)	8
Postural Exercises	40
Ringworm	33
Road Accidents	37
Skin Diseases	39
Speech Defects	27
Speech Therapy	40
Staff	4
Swimming	32
Tuberculin Testing	16-17
Ultra-Violet Light Clinics	34
Queen's Road	35
Whitley Clinic	35
Vermin	41

READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1953)

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor F. H. Lewis)

Aldermen:

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK	JEREMIAH JOHN DWYER
GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD, (<i>Chairman</i>)	HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON
THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART	

Councillors:

BERNARD FRANCIS BOOCOCH	REGINALD FOLLIOTT HASLUCK, M.A.,
ALICE JEANNETTE BURROWS	J.P. (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
MARY KATHERINE LOGAN DAHNE	LILIAN MARY MILLER
GEORGE WILLIAM HOLLEY	THOMAS HENRY SAUNDERS
WILLIAM FREDERICK PETTIT	MICHAEL GORDON SPICER
ALEXANDRA GEORGIA ANDERSON	FRANCIS TAYLOR
STURROCK	
EDWARD ALBERT BUSBY	

Co-opted Members:

The Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP	The Rev. Dr. J. P. MURPHY
SUFFRAGAN OF READING	The Rev. K. R. BRYMER
The Vice-Chancellor, University of Reading,	Prof. H. C. BARNARD, M.A.
J. F. WOLFENDEN, C.B.E., M.A.	E. F. ALLWOOD, B.Sc.
W. S. COSTIN	W. A. PALMER
A. J. KELSTON, B.A.	Miss D. M. MILES
	Miss J. ELLIOT, B.A.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1953

Principal School Medical Officer:

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy Principal School Medical Officer:

C. G. WOOLGROVE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officers:

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL AMY FISHER, M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G.

ROSA MAY PIGGOT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Principal Dental Officer:

J. CAMPBELL, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Ed.)

Dental Officers:

(Mrs.) M. V. GODDARD, L.D.S., R.C.S.

(Mrs.) H. M. LEVY, (*nee* Jaks)

Speech Therapists:

ROSEMARY RANBY, L.C.S.T.

(Mrs.) J. WEBB, L.C.S.T., (part-time)

School Nurses:

Miss O. EDGAR

Mrs. I. E. WHITE

Miss M. PLATT

*Miss R. M. UPTON

*Miss M. J. POUPARD

*Miss I. CALLON

Miss F. L. GATES

Mrs. H. KING

* Combined Health Visiting and School Nurse duties.

Oral Hygienist:

Miss V. ANDERSON

Clinic Assistants:

Mrs. D. Boxall

Mrs. P. Maseall

Miss J. Knott

Mrs. R. Neale

Chief Clerk:

Miss W. M. DIX

READING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the report of the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1953. This report is the thirty-second in the series which has been submitted to the Local Education Authority, and the fifth which I have been privileged to place before you.

During the year the School Medical Officers were responsible for the examination of some 9,000 pupils. This comprised 4,827 periodic medical inspections and 3,551 re-inspection and special inspections. These figures serve to emphasise the "routine" work of the School Health Service.

It is from such work that we are enabled to detect, observe and arrange for the appropriate treatment or corrective measures. It may be necessary for the child to be referred back to his family doctor for treatment or, where necessary, to the appropriate hospital specialist. With the excellent co-operation existing with the general practitioners of the town, arrangements are made for them to be informed concerning their patient at all stages.

Medical Officers attend the Paediatric ward round of the Consultant Paediatrician, Dr. Kempton, and assist in other hospital departments, notably the E.N.T. Department with Dr. Hunt Williams, Consultant Otolaryngologist and the Dermatology Department with the Consultant Dermatologist, Dr. Calvert. This has been of mutual advantage to all and of great assistance to the pupils and the School Health Service.

The early detection of defects is one of the aims of the Service, and for this reason the School Medical Inspection at the age of 5 years is considered to be of prime importance. Other routine medical inspections take place at 11 years of age and also in the last year of the pupil's attendance at school.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that the third examination, commonly termed "the school leavers' examination," is, in fact, an examination for fitness for entry into industry and has, therefore, a peculiar importance of its own. It is interesting to reflect that this examination is the responsibility of the Education Authority.

1,877 entrants were inspected during the year.

Arrangements were also made for school nurses to examine pupils in attendance at their schools who were in their 8th year for any eye defects which may have arisen since their first medical inspection. This policy has proved of great help in "bridging the gap" between the entrants and second routine medical inspections

which may be as long as six years. It has proved of greatest assistance in finding those pupils who have developed defects due to eye strain, etc. (1,062 such examinations were carried out during the year.)

Where handicaps are present which may affect placing in employment, the Youth Employment Bureau are informed and advised. We are always pleased to assist the Officers concerned with this important work with particular reference to children who are in any way physically or mentally handicapped.

Mention should also be made of the examinations undertaken in the nursery classes and schools : 380 inspections took place during the year. In keeping with the Ministry policy these children, whose ages range from 3 to 5 years, are examined twice a year. Although the number of examinations may be small there is no doubt that they serve a very useful purpose and underline the principle of preventive medicine, i.e. the finding of defects and their correction at the earliest opportunity. These schools are a great help to the toddler, whether he be an only child or one of a large family and are of mutual benefit in these times to the family, when so many women are employed in industry.

The School Health Service is also responsible for the medical examination of boys and girls who apply for registration in part-time employment. Some 211 boys and 67 girls were so examined during the year.

School children are also examined with regard to fitness for employment in entertainment (Christmas Pantomimes, etc.).

In this introduction I would like to make special mention of the following matters :—

ULTRA-VIOLET CLINICS. Attendance at these clinics continued to increase, facilities being available throughout the year at Queen's Road Clinic and the Whitley Clinic.

MEDICAL CENTRE, AVENUE SCHOOL. It is pleasing to record the completion of the Medical Centre at the Avenue School. This is providing much needed and appreciated facilities for all departments of the school. Facilities now available include postural exercise sessions, the treatment of minor ailments, breathing exercise sessions for asthmatics, speech therapy and ultra-violet light sessions.

HEALTH EDUCATION. During the year two well attended meetings were held at St. Laurence's Hall when members of the School Health Service and teaching staffs were present. The topics under discussion were "Health Education in the School" and "The Problems of Adolescence." In the first instance the speaker was Dr. Emrys Davies, Education Officer, Central Council of Health Education, and in the latter Dr. Arkle, Consultant Psychiatrist.

DEAF CHILDREN. The work in connection with the detection, education and treatment of deaf children continued throughout the year, with the ready assistance of Mr. Hunt Williams, Consultant Otolaryngologist, Royal Berkshire Hospital.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS. In the main body of the report is included a review of those children in Reading who have had poliomyelitis since 1949, with special reference to the progress they have made with regard to their handicap and education.

EPILEPTICS. A review of those children suffering from epilepsy (major and minor) serves to illustrate the great debt owed to the teaching profession who have made it possible for such children to attend ordinary school. Eleven such handicapped pupils are in attendance at the Avenue School.

HEART DISEASE. The same feature is also shown in the review of pupils suffering from congenital heart disease and rheumatic heart disease, i.e. a great proportion are able to manage quite well with special assistance (from all those concerned) at school.

SPEECH THERAPY. The provisions of a continued speech therapy service throughout the year has not been without difficulty due to changes of staff and illness. It has been found possible to extend the number of schools at which speech therapy is now given. In particular, mention should be made of the Avenue School, Emmer Green Primary, The Hill Primary, Battle School Clinic, Grovelands School Clinic, Ridgeway Primary and Geoffrey Field Schools, Infants' and Junior Departments.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE. There has been a continued decrease in the incidence of all contagious disease affecting school children in Reading. The most notable decrease occurred in relation to impetigo where the number dropped from 105 to 38. It is to be hoped that this is a real decrease. The number of cases of scabies, slightly increased in number to 24. It is encouraging to note a decline in ringworm of the scalp and body from 14 and 46 to 3 and 28 respectively.

The policy of **TUBERCULIN TESTING** the school entrants continued and was responsible for detecting at least two unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in adults, besides obtaining special advice and treatment for other chest conditions of a non-tuberculous nature.

Mention should be made of the increasing number of pupils awaiting admission to the Avenue School, particularly the Educationally Sub-normal Department. It is encouraging to note that the Authority have plans for the extension of the facilities at this school in the near future.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Principal School Medical Officer.

SCHOOL POPULATION

The following figures give particulars of the school population in the various age groups on December 31st, 1953, and an estimate of the increase over the next five years:—

31st December:	14 and 15	13 and 14	12 and 13	All children between 11 and 12			8 and 9	7 and 8	6 and 7	5 and 6	Totals	Increase + Decrease —	Cumulative Increase
				10 and 11	9 and 10	8 and 9							
1953 ...	1,479	1,468	1,441	1,512	1,628	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	16,882	—	—
1954 ...	1,468	1,441	1,512	1,628	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	1,729	17,132	+250	250
1955 ...	1,441	1,512	1,628	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	1,729	1,623	17,287	+155	405
1956 ...	1,512	1,628	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	1,729	1,623	1,646	17,492	+205	610
1957 ...	1,628	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	1,729	1,623	1,646	1,585	17,565	+73	683
1958 ...	1,800	1,686	1,930	2,101	1,837	1,729	1,623	1,646	1,585	1,529	17,466	+99	584

The following table gives details of the distribution of children and the various types of school on December 31st, 1953:—

Grammar	Central	Independent	Primary and Secondary Modern	Not attending School	Awaiting New Term
574	676	1,269	14,219	60	175

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,877
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	1,308
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	1,262
Total	...	...	...	...	4,447

Number of other Periodic Inspections ... 380

Grand Total ... 4,827

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections ... 1,422

Number of Re-inspections ... 2,129

Total ... 3,551

C. PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Group (1)	For Defective Vision (excluding Squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total Individual Pupils (4)
Entrants ...	68	365	348
Second Age Group	64	224	237
Third Age Group	107	243	317
Total (prescribed Groups) ...	239	832	902
Other Periodic In- spections ...	4	29	29
Grand Total ...	243	861	931

**Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the year
ended 31st December, 1953.**

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease (1)	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
		Number of Defects		Number of Defects	
		Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (5)
4	Skin	53	64	742	—
5	Eyes—				
	(a) Vision	243	127	44	1
	(b) Squint	74	29	5	—
	(c) Other	32	19	228	—
6	Ears—				
	(a) Hearing	20	42	21	—
	(b) Otitis Media	30	88	66	—
	(c) Other	21	14	128	—
7	Nose and Throat	167	328	125	—
8	Speech	15	29	10	—
9	Cervical Glands	10	68	19	1
10	Heart and Circulation	5	17	9	—
11	Lungs	19	91	28	—
12	Developmental—				
	(a) Hernia	4	5	—	—
	(b) Other	16	62	4	—
13	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture	97	43	11	—
	(b) Flat Foot	191	48	13	—
	(c) Other	64	102	65	—
14	Nervous System—				
	(a) Epilepsy... ..	3	2	—	—
	(b) Other	3	38	6	—
15	Psychological—				
	(a) Development	6	9	12	—
	(b) Stability... ..	9	24	7	—
16	Other	18	23	3,395	10

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

There are children who suffer from certain defects which prevent them from being educated by ordinary methods in ordinary schools. These children are known in official parlance as "handicapped children." Ascertainment of such handicapped children is one of the most important parts of the work of the School Health Service. In this we work very closely with the Education Department and I am very much obliged by the help which has been given by Mr. Taylor and his staff in making appropriate arrangements for this special education. The accompanying table gives the position at the 31st December, 1953 :—

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN—SUMMARY OF POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953

12

Type of Handicap	Number on Register, 31st Dec., 1953		Receiving appropriate education		(a) Number in Residential Schools (b) Number attending Day Schools		Not in receipt of appropriate education, but on waiting list for such		Remarks
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Blind	1	1	1	1	1 (a)	1	—	—	
(b) Partially Sighted	1	3	1	2	1 (a)	2	— (a)	1	
(c) Deaf	8	5	8	5	8 (a)	5	—	—	
(d) Partially Deaf	9	12	9	11	2 (a) 7 (b)	4 7	— (a) — (b)	1 —	
(e) Educationally Sub-normal	83	40	59	25	5 (a) 54 (b)	— 25	— (a) 24 (b)	— 15	
(f) Epileptic	6	5	6	4	6 (b)	3	—	—	1 f. temporary excluded from school 1 f. receiving home teaching
(g) Maladjusted	20	6	16	5	2 (a) 14 (b)	2 3	— (a) 4 (b)	— 1	(b) In Hostels
(h) Physically Handicapped	35	10	32	10	2 (a) 26 (b)	1 4	2 (a) 1 (b)	— 1	4 m. 5 f. being taught at home
(i) Speech Defects	94	30	91	28	91 (b)	28	—	—	These figures include :— Minchin's Farm 1 m. 2 f. Avenue 9 m. 1 f. Occupation Centre 3 m. 1 f. There were also :— Pre-School 1 m. 1 f. Nursery School 2 m. 1 f.
(j) Delicate Children	34	22	33	22	— (a) 33 (b)	— 22	— (a) 1 (b)	— —	

The Avenue School. It is pleasant to report diminishing rolls in both the Physically Handicapped Department and Open Air School, indicating a lowering incidence of crippling handicaps and ailing conditions ; the realisation, to some degree, of the hope expressed last year that improved nutrition and child care, better housing and better school buildings would result in a decreasing need for this type of special educational provision. Many admissions during the year, however, particularly to the Open Air School, were of children less equipped educationally and consequently requiring a longer period of remedial teaching.

There was an increased waiting list for admission to the Educationally Sub-normal Department.

Changes in the rolls are shown in the following table :—

	E.S.N.		P.H.		Delicate	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
On Rolls, January, 1953 ...	55	26	29	9	36	24
Transferred to Ordinary School	—	—	1	1	4	3
Transferred to E.S.N. Dept. ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Transferred to P.H. Dept. ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Admitted to Hospital or Residential School ...	1	—	—	—	2	—
Left for Employment ...	7	4	4	3	2	3
Left the District ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Excluded ...	—	6	—	—	—	—
Admitted during year ...	8	9	8	2	7	5
On Rolls, December, 1953 ...	54	25	32	7	33	22

Four boys and three girls from the Open Air School and one boy and one girl from the P.H. Department returned to ordinary school and have maintained their progress there. After the customary consideration of all the aspects of the boy or girl in the interviews at school with the headmaster, parents, welfare officers and employment officers, all the children who left school were placed in appropriate employment. The evidence of the growing recognition of the benefit of the additional year at school—the leaving age is sixteen years—is given in the extremely satisfactory progress during this last year of most of the children who left. No fewer than ten of them received prizes, one physically handicapped boy being awarded two, and a special gift from H.M. Chief Inspector of

Schools of this area. This boy has become an indentured engineering apprentice. Another prize-winner passed his examination to enter British Railways. Four boys began careers in farming.

Encouraging success attended all the school work, and Prize Day, at which His Worship the Mayor again presented the prizes, brought its lengthening list of children whose efforts merited recognition.

Specimens of the children's craft work was again shown at a course in London, and the exhibition during Open Days in July of bookcraft, woodwork, sewing and knitting, painting and modelling was quite imposing. The senior girls in the E.S.N. Department, who began dancing only the previous year, had achieved the confidence to give some attractive displays, and mixed dancing has been started with success, encouragement in elementary decorum having its influence on the behaviour out of school of those adolescent boys and girls.

The temporary stopping of domestic science training because of staffing difficulties was unfortunate but a restart, with possibly some extension of facilities, is anticipated.

Swimming in the indoor pool continued to be popular and certainly beneficial, not only from the physical aspect, but from the pride accomplishment gave to the children less able to attain to high scholastic standards. Weekly attendance averaged 30, but as many as 40 have participated. Certificates were awarded to twenty-one boys and three girls, including one P.H. and one delicate boy. Most of the others have learned to swim and are likely to be qualified to take certificates next year. Two inter-school matches were played by the football team and increased numbers of children attended organised games each week. The school's own field has been sown and will be in use next year.

The year in the school garden was very successful and the boys' plots produced good harvests. The greenhouse which the boys have built under the guidance of their woodwork teacher came into use last autumn and an extension of seed propagation is now possible.

All the children were taken to see the films of the Coronation and of the climbing of Mount Everest. The day's outing to Hayling Island was repeated with the aid of a substantial donation from the Pearson Fresh Air Fund. For the success of this outing and the special occasions within and without the school we are indebted to the meals' staff who, through the interest and knowledge of the supervisor, have made exemplary provision for all meals—breakfast, dinner and afternoon meal—and shown great ingenuity in the tempting of the appetites of the more difficult children, as well as seeing to the special diets of four children.

The completion of the Medical Centre attached to the school has greatly improved facilities for examination and treatment. The special exercises taken by the school nurse for asthmatic children and for some others with postural defects have restarted, and the addition of ultra violet light therapy is proposed. Full use has been made of the daily clinics.

Home Teaching. The home teaching of handicapped children has shown a steady development during the year. Twelve children benefited from the arrangements, and after visits and inspection of several residential schools one boy of twelve years of age has been admitted to a residential school, one to the P.H. Department of this school, and one has returned to ordinary school. A little girl who has made consistent progress throughout the year is now being considered for admission to a residential school.

Two children have been added to the list, both very young, and the average of the home taught pupils is rather low, thus increasing the need for more frequent visits. At present the distribution of the home teachers' time provides rather less than one hour per day for each pupil. Rather longer periods are given three times per week. The highly specialised work which must be done for such children calls for daily visits and the lessons of experience are being noted. At Battle Hospital where one seriously afflicted little girl still lies, the children who from time to time occupy the three other beds in the little ward have enjoyed and benefited from the teacher's visits, one receiving special individual attention for most of the year before being transferred to another hospital.

All the children have worked well and those who are able are now brought together by their teacher for group activities once a week. The children show the keenest delight in this innovation and their lively response justifies the effort of transport involved. These occasions have been used for field work in local studies, or, with the school, for visits to the films of the Coronation and Climbing of Everest, for music and crafts and for group work in basic subjects. Their value, however, extends by social contacts to the development of poise and the breaking down of the feeling of isolation and separateness which would otherwise remain a strong influence with these children. Whatever the age or capacity of the child every minute of time and every effort has brought a swift and encouraging reward, leading them nearer to normality and fulfilment.

The home teaching of the five cerebral palsied children in the accommodation provided by Mr. and Mrs. Minchin continued successfully. One little boy made a start for one day of the week, and a girl who is visited in her home works with the other children on one other day of the week.

The severity of the handicap of most of these unfortunate children creates an educational problem which calls for specialised study and infinite patience. Necessarily, the progress of each child varies with age and capacity, and here, as with all handicapped children, their achievements are under constant review.

At school and at home, each handicapped child is normally medically inspected at least twice a year and more frequently as physical condition demands, and the closest liaison is maintained with hospital specialists, therapists and all concerned with the care and health of the child. A word should be said here in appreciation of the untiring and unfailing help which has been given to home teachers and pupils by the librarians of the Reading Institute of Education and of the Junior Central Public Library.

(1) Special Investigations : (2) Tuberculin Testing. The practice of Tuberculin Testing the five-year-old entrants continued during the year, using either :—

- (A) Mantoux Test with O.T. Tuberculin 1 in 1,000, *or*
- (B) The Patch Jelly Test with O.T. Tuberculin.

The investigations were responsible for finding a number of individuals, both children and adults, suffering from conditions requiring observation and advice by the Chest Clinic, and also two unsuspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in adults. In one case, unfortunately, the person concerned was unwilling to avail herself of specialist treatment and advice of the Chest Clinic.

The work done in the schools are summarised in the following tables, together with comments concerning further investigations carried out with regard to Patch Positive or Mantoux Positive children.

SUMMARY OF T.B. JELLY PATCH TESTS—Year ending 31st December, 1953.

17

School	Number Positive	Number Negative	Number not tested because Negative at Chest Clinic in last 12 months	Number who were Positive because they had B.C.G. or tested by Chest Clinic	Number absent, therefore not tested	Number refused	Number of unknown T.B. cases found (Adult)	Number of children showing radiological signs of infection
Alfred Sutton Primary ...	6	81	1	—	3	2	—	—
All Saints' Infants' ...	—	29	—	—	2	—	—	—
Battle Infants' ...	1	91	—	—	9	4	—	—
Caversham Primary ...	1	48	—	—	3	1	—	—
Coley Primary ...	3	20	1	—	—	—	—	—
Emmer Green Primary ...	6	69	—	—	—	—	—	—
E. P. Collier Primary ...	1	41	1	—	1	1	—	—
Grovelands Primary ...	2	89	—	1	15	—	—	2
Katesgrove Infants' ...	6	45	—	—	2	—	—	—
Newtown Infants' ...	3	55	—	—	1	—	—	—
Oxford Road Infants' ...	3	82	2	—	1	—	—	3
Park Lane Primary ...	1	108	2	—	6	—	1	1
St. Anne's R.C. ...	3	18	—	—	7	8	—	1
St. James' R.C. ...	2	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. John's, Caversham ...	3	34	—	—	2	—	—	—
St. John's, Reading ...	—	16	—	—	1	—	—	—
St. Mary's ...	1	37	—	—	3	—	—	1
The Hill Primary ...	—	44	—	—	—	3	—	—
Wilson Infants' ...	—	94	3	—	13	1	—	—
Total ...	42	1,022	10	1	70	20	1	8

SUMMARY OF MANTOUX TESTS—Year ending 31st December, 1953

School	Number Positive	Number Negative	Number not tested because found to be Negative at Chest Clinic in last 12 months	Number who were Positive because they had B.C.G. or tested by Chest Clinic	Number absent, therefore not tested	Number refused	Number of unknown T.B. cases found (Adult)	Number of children showing radiological signs of infection
Geoffrey Field Infants' ...	3	131	6	4	35	8	—	3
Georgo Palmer Infants' ...	4	53	12	1	12	8	1	1
Redlands Primary ...	2	20	1	1	9	1	—	—
Ridgeway Primary ...	1	57	6	4	33	6	—	—
Whitley Park Infants' ...	1	115	13	4	25	12	—	—
Christchurch Infants' ...	1	23	3	—	2	9	—	1
Totals ...	12	399	41	14	116	44	1	5

Note : In all cases where a positive result was obtained from a tuberculin test the members of the family concerned were advised to have their chest screened at the Chest Clinic, including, of course, the school child concerned.

Co-operation of the families was good on the whole. The family circumstances were thoroughly investigated, including the milk supply.

All other children who were patch test positive were reported by the Chest Clinic as having chest X-rays within normal limits.

Audiometric Investigations. Dr. Fisher continued her examination of children in the "C" Stream in certain of the schools to ascertain if there were in this classification pupils whose education was being affected by unsuspected difficulty in hearing.

The children examined were between 8-10 years of age.

It was noteworthy that all cases referred to the Royal Berkshire Hospital responded to treatment except one, who was supplied with a hearing aid for use at school.

The following tables give details concerning this work and the appropriate action taken :—

SPRING TERM

School	Number of Pupils Tested	Number of Pupils referred to Hospital	Number of Pupils having T.A.'s removed	Other Treatment
Oxford Road Junior ...	44	2	2	—
St. John's Primary, Reading	12	1	—	1
Battle Junior	24	—	—	—
Grovelands Primary ...	33	1	—	1
St. Mary's Primary ...	22	2	1	1
Wilson Junior	19	1	—	1 H.A.
Total ...	154	7	3	4

H.A. Hearing Aid (One).

AUTUMN TERM

School	Number of Pupils Tested	Number of Pupils referred to Hospital	Number of Pupils having T.A.'s removed	Other Treatment
Park Lane Primary ...	29	1	1	—
Oxford Road Junior ...	47	—	1	—
Wilson Junior	64	—	1	—
Total ...	140	1	3	—

Five other children, referred by the teacher because of suspected deafness, were investigated at the hospital and were provided with Monopak hearing aids.

The advisability or otherwise of routine audiometry is, to my mind, still open to question, but it is wise to continue this work for some time longer before expressing any definite opinion. On the other hand there is no doubt that we benefit by our close liaison with the E.N.T. Department of the Royal Berkshire Hospital when we do discover a child who is shown to have defective hearing by use of the audiometric examinations which we carry out.

Epilepsy (Major and Minor). The School Health Service have under observation some 24 pupils who suffer from epilepsy (major and minor forms), most of them experiencing some loss of consciousness and all receiving therapy prescribed by the family practitioner, often after consultation with the hospital specialist.

Table I shows the type of education these children are receiving. It will be seen that although eleven of them attend the Avenue School, only one is at a Residential School.

It reflects great credit on the teaching profession that ten children are educated in ordinary schools.

TABLE I

	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery School	2	1	3
Primary School	—	3	3
Secondary Modern School ...	3	—	3
Grammar School	1	—	1
Avenue School	8	3	11
Residential School	1	—	1
Home Teaching	—	1	1
Excluded from School	—	1	1
Total	15	9	24

Table II gives the ages and sex of the children concerned and serves to emphasise :—

- (i) the duty of the Education Authority of ascertaining handicapped children from 2 years of age.

(ii) In Reading, at least, boys with this disability predominate over girls.

TABLE II

Age	Boys	Girls	Total
2	1	—	1
3	—	1	1
4	1	—	1
5	—	1	1
6	1	—	1
7	1	2	3
8	—	2	2
9	1	1	2
10	1	—	1
11	2	—	2
12	2	—	2
13	—	—	—
14	3	2	5
15	2	—	2
Total ...	15	9	24

Pupils with Congenital Disease of the Heart. The review of school children suffering from congenital heart disease provides similar evidence to other handicaps that children are able, with the help of parent, teacher and school, to cope at ordinary school.

Table III shows the type of school these pupils are attending.

TABLE III

	Boys	Girls	Total
Junior School	3	—	3
Senior School	2	1	3
Avenue School	2	2	4
Home Teaching	2	1	3
Total	9	4	13

Table IV gives the sex and ages of the children.

TABLE IV

Ages	Boys	Girls	Total
5	—	1	1
6	2	—	2
7	2	1	3
8	1	1	2
9	1	—	1
10	1	—	1
11	—	1	1
12	—	—	—
13	1	—	1
14	—	1	1
Total ...	8	5	13

Pupils suffering from Rheumatic Heart Disease. During the year there were 16 children recorded suffering from valvular disease of the heart due to rheumatic infection or unknown aetiology. The larger proportion of these children are at ordinary schools. This is well shown in Table V. The ages of the children are shown in Table VI.

VALVULAR DISEASE OF THE HEART

TABLE V

	Boys	Girls	Total
Senior School	5	4	9
Junior School	—	2	2
Avenue School	3	1	4
Hospital	—	1	1
Total	8	8	16

TABLE VI

Ages	Boys	Girls	Total
7	1	—	1
8	—	1	1
9	—	2	2
10	—	—	—
11	—	—	—
12	1	2	3
13	4	2	6
14	2	1	3
Total ...	8	8	16

It will be of great interest to follow up these categories of handicapped children mentioned above in future years to see how they are able to, with the assistance and help from the Education Authority, prepare for the day when they leave school. It may be that a surprising number of these children will be equipped to lead independent and normal lives.

Infantile Paralysis. Since January, 1949, a detailed report has been kept of all notified cases of poliomyelitis occurring within the Borough, and those who have paralysis are reviewed annually for a period of at least three years. This is of particular importance in the cases of children as they may require special educational treatment on account of the residual disability. During the past five years 44 children (under 15 years) have had infantile paralysis and 3 have died as a result. Of those who recovered, 14 were non-paralytic cases and 27 had paralysis.

Table I shows the incidence of poliomyelitis among children under 15 years during the five-year survey period :—

TABLE I

Year	Non-Paralytic Cases		Paralytic Cases		Deaths		Total number of cases of Infantile Paralysis under 15 years
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1949	8	2	13	3	—	2	28
1950	1	1	3	—	—	—	5
1951	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
1952	1	—	3	2	1	—	7
1953	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Total number of boys and girls in each category ...	11	3	19	8	1	2	
GRAND TOTAL ...	14		27		3		44

Table II shows the age distribution of poliomyelitis in this group of children :—

TABLE II

	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5+ months ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—11+ months ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2+ years ...	5	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
3—4+ years ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—6+ years ...	4	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
7—8+ years ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
9—10+ years ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
11—12+ years ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
13—14+ years ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of boys and girls for each year ...	21	7	4	1	1	1	5	2	—	2
GRAND TOTAL ...	28		5		2		7		2	

Table III is an analysis of the educational requirements of the children who have had the paralytic form of poliomyelitis. The numbers in brackets represent pre-school children, and they have been placed in the category for which it is anticipated that they will be suitable on reaching school age.

TABLE III

Year of onset of Illness	Completely recovered		Fit for ordinary school with few restrictions		Fit for Special Day School		Fit only for Residential Special School or Home Teaching		Not Traced		Total for each year
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1949	5	1	2 (1)	1	3	—	1	—	1†	1*	16
1950	1	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
1951	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1952	2	—	(1)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
1953	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

* Recommended for Special Day School prior to leaving district.

† Was still in hospital school after two years.

Speech Defects.

124 children attended the Speech Clinic during 1953.

23 discharged cured or greatly improved.

1 discharged—no improvement.

1 refused treatment.

6 taken off the register for non-attendance.

4 left the district before treatment was completed.

89 continued into 1954.

5 cases of alalia, and of these :

2 due to deafness ;

2 due to mental backwardness.

70 cases of dyslalia.

5 cases of dyslalia due to mental backwardness.

26 cases of stammering.

4 cases of stammering and dyslalia

9 cases of cleft palate.

3 cases of cerebral palsy.

2 cases of disordered vocal resonance.

All children with defective articulation, who had not been tested previously, were asked to attend for audiometry.

Several children were referred for orthodontic treatment.

Clinics were held at Queen's Road, The Avenue, The Hill, Emmer Green, Grovelands, Battle and the Geoffrey Field Schools.

One morning a week was kept for school and home visits, interviewing parents and for correspondence.

During the year the Speech Clinic at Queen's Road was re-decorated and re-equipped.

NUTRITION

The following table gives the classification of the pupils inspected during the year in the various age groups :—

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,877	1,081	57.6	781	41.6	15	.8
Second Age Group ...	1,308	729	55.7	564	43.1	15	1.1
Third Age Group ...	1,262	679	53.8	575	45.5	8	.6
Other Periodic In- spections	380	258	67.7	121	31.8	1	.2
Total	4,827	2,747	56.9	2,041	42.2	39	.8

School Meals Service. The following report has been received from Miss P. E. Hall, School Meals Organiser :—

The year 1953 has been a difficult one for the School Meals Service. In January and February there was an unusual amount of illness, and on the 1st March the price of the meal was increased by 2d. This resulted in a decrease of 10% of the total numbers. I am glad to be able to report a gradual increase in the number of meals served, which reached a maximum of 7,387 on a day during the Autumn Term.

It is interesting to find that the "family service" where children help themselves to vegetables from dishes on their own tables is proving successful. At first very few vegetables were eaten and many children had no second vegetables, but now the amount eaten is normal. This type of service appears to be most successful with the senior children.

A residential week-end course for Canteen Supervisors and Head Teachers was arranged by the School Meals Organisers of Berkshire, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Reading and Southampton. It was held at the Glen Eyre Hall of Residence, Southampton University. The course was extremely stimulating and a wide variety of subjects were included. The following subjects were included : Staff Management, Fire Precautions, Nutrition, Time and Motion Study, The L. s. d. of the Meals Service, Social Training, as well as an excellent demonstration on large scale cooking methods. All the discussion was extremely lively, and everyone was most enthusiastic about the course, and the Supervisors have found it most helpful, and new methods are being tried.

The number of children who were provided with meals at school free of charge during the year was 860 as against 738 in the previous year.

Milk in Schools. At the end of the year 13,147 children were receiving milk in schools. All milk is pasteurised and subjected to regular bacteriological testing and proved to be of satisfactory quality.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., reports as follows :—

"The Dental Staff at the beginning of the year was the same as in 1952, e.g. two full-time Dental Officers. In order to reopen Whitley Dental Clinic, Mrs. Goddard was transferred for duty there. Miss Jaks, a part-time Dental Officer, commenced duty on October 12th.

This year, in spite of staffing difficulties, we have made a definite attempt to carry out inspection at schools and have succeeded in inspecting 24 schools, i.e. approximately half of the school population. The number of specials or casuals shows a marked decrease, there being 1,009 fewer than in 1952. This is a decided improvement, allowing more time for routine work.

In view of the greater number of sessions devoted to inspection, one would expect the other parts of the work to suffer, but I am pleased to report that this is not so. We have made a strenuous and sustained effort to keep up surgery work, and the result is an increase in the work performed. Compared with last year, the actual number of children treated has increased by 945, extractions by 1,793 and fillings by 1,617. The number of general anæsthetics also shows a slight increase.

Dentures continue to be supplied, where necessary, but Orthodontic treatment must continue to be restricted until additional staff becomes available.

I shall refer to the work of the Oral Hygienist later.

Patients requiring X-rays are referred to Battle Hospital. I would recommend that a Dental X-ray machine be installed at Queen's Road Clinic as it would be an invaluable asset to the work of the Dental Officers. Urgent cases could be X-rayed immediately, obviating the delay involved in sending them to hospital.

The appended tables give details of the work of the year. Treatment given to pre-school children is reported under 'Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children' in the report of the Medical Officer of Health."

Dental Inspection and Treatment carried out by the Authority

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :

(a) Periodic	...	...	...	...	...	8,266
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	2,035
Total	...	...	...	...	...	10,301
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	7,171
(3) Number referred for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	6,918
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	4,730
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	8,397
(6) Half days devoted to : Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	43
Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	869
Total	...	...	...	...	...	912

(7) Fillings : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	3,741
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	336
Total	...	...	...	...	4,077
(8) Number of teeth filled : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	3,102
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	324
Total	...	...	...	...	3,426
(9) Extractions : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1,126
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	5,145
Orthodontic	...	...	...	...	49
Total	...	...	...	...	6,320
(10) Administration of General Anaesthetics for Extraction	...	...	...	...	1,691
(11) Other Operations : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	901
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,176
Total	...	...	...	...	3,077

The following also attended for treatment :—

	Number Treated	Number of Attend- ances	Number of Extracts	Number of Fillings	General Anaes- thetics	Number Dis- charged
Abbey	4	13	5	11	—	4
St. Joseph's ...	4	9	—	7	—	4
Christ's Hospital	3	6	—	6	—	3
Blue Coat School	8	17	1	8	—	3
Occupation Centre	4	5	6	—	2	4
Child under Home Tuition ...	1	3	1	4	—	1

Dentures. The supply of dentures to schoolchildren differed very little from 1952. Twenty-six children were supplied, and repairs to dentures numbered ten. In all, these children made 98 attendances.

Orthodontics. Forty-three children were fitted with appliances for correction of irregular dentitions. This number is six fewer than last year. Repairs, renewal of springs, etc., were forty. The

total number of attendances for periodic inspection and necessary adjustment was 478.

Oral Hygiene. The number of children who attended the Oral Hygienist shows a marked increase over 1952 : 2,036 actual cases against 1,440 during 1952. This figure is made up from 1,439 children who required treatment by the Dental Officer and were referred to the Hygienist, and 593 who required cleaning only, being dentally perfect in other respects. The services of the Hygienist are a great asset, as they save the time of the Dental Officer, which may be devoted to treatment, and also encourage the children to become "Tooth Conscious." Four pre-school children attended for the removal of stain and three mothers for scaling. The total number of attendances was 2,044.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The year 1952-53 has seen further progress in physical education in Reading. The experiments carried out in recent years have been proved to be sound policy. Further apparatus has been installed in the primary departments and the children in these schools have developed steadily in skill and confidence. Since 1946 emphasis on experimental and progressive physical training has been placed on primary school work, not only in Reading, but nationally—as can be seen in the recent publications of the Ministry of Education—and it has not always been possible for the secondary teachers to witness, appreciate and keep pace with these developments. These difficulties can be overcome to some extent by courses and inter-school visits. In Reading it has been possible to offer these facilities to secondary school teachers on this subject.

Games. The weather during the winter months was particularly favourable for games, and in consequence greater attendances were made at the playing fields. The general results of this were seen by the end of the season in the improved standard of play.

Hockey was further established in the girls' secondary schools, especially when the game was started in the first year. It is evident that facilities for this game should be improved and increased on school playing fields.

Lawn Tennis was by far the most popular summer game with secondary girls, while many of the secondary boys made use of the facilities when available. These facilities however proved to be very inadequate with the result that it was not possible to meet the demands from schools. Tennis tournaments were held for girls, boys and mixed couples, and proved to be exceedingly popular. Unfortunately the entries had to be restricted in the end to two couples per school for each tournament.

Playing Fields. Increased demands for playing fields by schools were met as far as possible by increasing the use of existing school playing fields. This meant greater wear on these pitches than would normally be advised.

The following new school field was brought into use during the year : THE HILL.

The following new school fields were prepared and sown during the year : ASHMEAD, GEOFFREY FIELD, ORATORY.

The following school fields will be prepared at an early date : EMMER GREEN, PARK LANE, Extension at THE GROVE, STONEHAM, SOUTHCOTE.

(Note : In future it should be possible to take much of the present play from public parks to school playing fields if transport can be made available for this purpose for the children.)

Swimming. Full use was made of the Arthur Hill Baths during the winter months and of all the bathing facilities in Reading during the summer season. Three instructresses were appointed at two of the baths to assist the class teachers. The total number of attendances recorded were approximately 38,300, an increase of 3,050 on the previous year. The improvements carried out at the baths were much appreciated by all concerned.

During the year various tests were made throughout the country with semi-permanent and portable swimming baths for erection at schools. It is hoped that it will be possible to experiment on these lines in Reading during 1954.

Visits and Courses. Two visits with small parties of teachers were arranged to Bexley Upton School, Bexleyheath, to observe experimental work there.

Lawn Tennis Coaching Course conducted by Major Moss.

Shinty and Hockey Course for Beginners.

Netball Umpires' Course in conjunction with the Berks County Netball Association.

Dancing : Movement by Miss L. Bower.

„ English Folk by Mrs. Green.

„ Ballet for Beginners, arranged through Borsdorf & Co. Ltd.

Short Courses in Physical Training in areas in Reading.

Films on progressive work in physical training, games and athletics were shown for teachers.

In conclusion, the Organisers wish to express their thanks to everyone who has assisted them in their work throughout the year.

Postural Exercises. The present arrangement for remedial exercises for round shoulders and flat feet is that the children do

the exercises at home from an illustrated card, and are reviewed periodically by the School Medical Officer. A class is held each week at the School Clinic Gymnasium, under the supervision of a trained clinic attendant, so that new cases may be taught to perform the exercises correctly and long-standing old cases may be reviewed from time to time. Children who are in Grammar Schools do not attend the exercise class as they are kept under observation by the P.T. teacher of the school.

The numbers below show the extent of this type of remedial therapy during 1953 :—

Number doing exercise for flat feet	...	...	373
Number doing exercise for round shoulders	...	...	255
Number doing exercise for both conditions	...	...	69
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	697
<hr/>			
Number who attended remedial exercise class once			345
Number who attended remedial exercise class more than once	...	...	244
Number who have been discharged as cured :			
With flat feet	...	...	118
With round shoulders	...	...	92
With both conditions	...	...	60
<hr/>			
			270
<hr/>			
Number who were discharged because they had reached school leaving age	...	...	15

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

The incidence of ringworm of the scalp showed a welcome decrease from the 18 cases recorded in 1952, only one such case being reported and that in a boy of pre-school age.

This boy's infection was confirmed by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of being of animal origin (*microsporon canis*).

Although the animals of this household were examined it did not prove possible to find the source of the infection.

The history of the other two boys who were under regular observation during the year shows how difficult can be complete eradication of the human infection (*microsporon audouini*).

Boy A, aged 10 years. Diagnosis : ringworm of the scalp, May, 1952. X-ray treatment, Royal Berkshire Hospital, June, 1952. Responded to treatment, and returned to school November, 1952.

This boy continued to have slight recurrence of infection throughout the year, necessitating constant observation and treatment at appropriate times.

Boy B, aged 9 years. Diagnosis : ringworm of the scalp, June, 1952. Responded to local treatment given by the school clinic, and returned to school, September, 1952.

This boy also had a recurring slight infection of a forehead scar. He was finally discharged in April, 1953.

These cases serve to show that ringworm of the scalp is a condition which can seriously interfere with the educational progress of a pupil, due to long absences from school. We are pleased to record that no absence from school was necessary during the year because of the slight degree of infection.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

	Total	School Age	Pre-School Age	Boys	Girls
Number of Cases treated	3 (Two carried over from 1952)	2	1	3	—
Report of Specimens sent to :— The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine ...	Audouini —	Canis 1	Average absence from school —		
Referred to Royal Berkshire Hospital for advice but not X-ray Treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Average Absence from School ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
These three cases were at :	George Palmer Junior School ... ..	...	...	...	2
	Pre-School ... ..	...	...	...	1

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC

The Ultra-Violet Light Sessions continued throughout the year at the Queen's Road Clinic and also at the Whitley Clinic.

There is no doubt that these sessions proved helpful and beneficial to the children concerned.

There was a total of 262 children who were responsible for 3,665 attendances at the sessions concerned, and this represents an increase of 102 children and 2,403 attendances over the previous year.

The following table gives further details concerning these children :—

Conditions treated included : General Debility, Asthma, Pulmonary Catarrh, Boils of Neck, Nasal Catarrh, Underweight, etc.

QUEEN'S ROAD SCHOOL CLINIC.

Number of Children :

Number of Boys	...	...	...	...	61
Number of Girls	...	...	...	...	43
Pre-school Children	...	...	...	...	14
Total					118

Number of Attendances	...	...	...	...	1,480
Number of Hours given	...	...	...	...	104

WHITLEY SCHOOL CLINIC.

Number of Children :

Number of Boys	...	...	...	...	46
Number of Girls	...	...	...	...	84
Pre-school Children	...	...	...	...	14
Total					144

Number of Attendances	...	...	...	...	2,185
Number of Hours given	...	...	...	...	190

BERKSHIRE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

Dr. Ward reports as follows :—

“ One hundred and seventy-five Reading Borough children have been seen for consultation or treatment at the Berkshire Child Guidance Clinic during 1953. Sixty new cases have been referred to the Clinic during this period. The highest number of referrals has been for behaviour difficulties, the next highest being for neurotic symptoms such as anxiety and functional disorders due to emotional causes, and backwardness due to anxiety.

As a general routine, all children referred to the Clinic are seen for a complete diagnostic interview, which includes an interview between the mother and Psychiatric Social Worker to find out about any difficulties in the home and the child's early life, an Intelligence Test given by the Psychologist, and the Psychiatrist's separate interviews with the mother and child. Reports of the child's behaviour and educational progress at school are also received. A Case Conference is then held to collect all the information and decide on the best way of helping child and parent. The relatively small number of children taken on for regular weekly treatment shows that most cases can be helped adequately by giving advice to parents and in some cases the teacher, and following up progress at intervals to make sure that this help is sufficient. The very disturbed, anxious child, and the child with a severe behaviour problem, will need regular weekly treatment, when the child is seen by the Psychiatrist or Psychologist, and the mother is

seen by the Psychiatric Social Worker for advice and guidance. When possible, the Child Guidance Clinic prefers to treat the child from home, but in certain cases unfavourable home circumstances, such as overcrowding or the mother's nervous state or ill-health, may make it necessary to remove the child from its family for a period to one of the hostels for maladjusted children, where the staff are experienced in helping nervous and difficult children. The children from these hostels go out to the Local Authority schools and the life in the hostel is kept as much like family life as possible. Reading Borough has two hostels for maladjusted children, and the Clinic staff visit these hostels regularly at least once a week to advise on treatment. Ten Reading Borough children have been admitted to hostels for maladjusted children during the year. The appointment of a third Psychiatric Social Worker to the Clinic staff has now made it possible for us to undertake more intensive work to improve the home circumstances while children are having hostel treatment, and to start an After-Care Scheme for all children admitted to hostels. The Psychiatric Social Worker visits the home of all children discharged from hostels at regular intervals for periods up to five years or until the child has reached the age of 17 years, to see that progress made at the hostel is maintained whenever possible.

Number of cases brought forward from previous year	...	151
Number of new cases referred	... ..	60
Number of cases reopened during the year	... ..	12
Total number of cases seen for consultation and treatment	...	175

Number of cases closed	... ..	72
After consultation and advice only	... ..	25

Number of cases treated and closed :—

Adjusted	... ..	4
Improved	... ..	8
No change	... ..	—
Closed after advice and supervision	... ..	20
Prematurely closed	... ..	7
Number of cases closed, not seen	... ..	5
Number of cases closed, after social work only	... ..	3

Number of interviews °—

For Psychiatric examination	... ..	82
For intelligence test	... ..	104
For treatment, including remedial coaching	... ..	739

Number of children admitted to Hostels for Maladjusted Children	10
---	--------	----

ROAD ACCIDENTS

In common with the rest of the country, Reading experienced an increase in the number of accidents involving school children. This can but serve to remind all concerned with Education and the School Health Service the importance of a simple road safety routine.

Inspector Attrill emphasises that a high proportion of cyclists are involved, and an account is given by Mr. G. Winterton, Headmaster of Ashmead School, of what is being done to try and meet this problem. Inspector Attrill comments :—

“ I regret to say that one child pedestrian in this category was killed, thus breaking the long continuity of fatality-free years.

“ It will be noticed that a high proportion of cyclists were involved, and it would be safe to say that approximately two-thirds of these would be boys.

“ With the ever-increasing number of motor vehicles on the roads, it is, I think, of paramount importance that child cyclists should be carefully trained and observed by parents or some other responsible adult before they are turned into the present day traffic stream alone.”

Month	Pedestrians	Pedal Cyclists	Other Persons	Total
January ...	2	1	Nil	3
February ...	1	2	Nil	3
March ...	4	4	1	9
April ...	4	8	Nil	12
May ...	5	9	Nil	14
June ...	3	2	Nil	5
July ...	3	3	Nil	6
August ...	2	2	Nil	4
September	3	6	Nil	9
October ...	2	2	1	5
November...	5	3	Nil	8
December ...	3	5	1	9
Total ...	37	47	3	87

Mr. Winterton comments as follows :—

“The objects of the Ashmead School Cycling Club is to encourage boys to look after their machines, to keep them roadworthy and to obey the rules of the road.

“All who wish to cycle to school must obtain a permit before they are allowed to do so. This permit will not be granted unless the boy's cycle is in good condition and unless he knows and obeys the Highway Code. Cycles are inspected periodically by a committee of boys and staff. Breaches of the rules of the Club, i.e. rules of the road and special regulations concerning cycling on the school premises, entail loss of the permit. In other words, obey or walk !

“A test on the rules of the road is to be held shortly and nearly 100 boys have signed on for the Police Training Scheme. As the school develops it is hoped to award badges for first class riders on first class bicycles. Parents' interest is obtained by requesting their signatures on the permits. No permit is valid without this signature. Nearly 300 boys now hold these licences, which are made and printed in school.

“If all this means only one accident the less and one life saved, it will be well worth doing.”

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Members of the teaching staffs of the schools were invited to tea, followed by a lecture, at St. Laurence's Hall in February and November, 1953. These meetings have now become a regular annual event and are always well attended. The first meeting was addressed by Dr. Emrys Davies, Education Officer to the Central Council for Health Education, on “Furthering Health Education in Schools.”

At the Autumn meeting Dr. D. J. Arkle, Deputy Superintendent, Fairmile Hospital, spoke on “The Problems of Adolescence” and this was preceded a few weeks earlier by a supplementary talk on “Health Problems of the Adolescent Girl” for senior mistresses of mixed Central and Secondary Schools by Mr. W. K. Frewen, Gynaecologist to the Reading Group of Hospitals.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses attended a course of lectures given at the School Clinic in the Spring by members of the Consultant Staff of the Royal Berkshire Hospital on various disorders of childhood.

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN SCHOOL AND
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN
For the Year 1953**

Notifiable Disease	Total under 15 years	Under one year	One and under three years	Three and under five years	Five and under ten years	Ten and under fifteen years
Scarlet Fever	133	—	11	29	86	7
Whooping Cough	136	13	29	32	59	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1,587	34	338	508	689	18
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	27	5	6	7	8	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	—	2	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	2	—	—	1	1	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	33	3	5	8	13	4
Food Poisoning	2	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	1,923	55	392	585	857	34

**MISCELLANEOUS TABLES
Diseases of the Skin**

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm—		
(i) Scalp	3	—
(ii) Body	28	—
Scabies	24	—
Impetigo	38	—
Other Skin Diseases	672	4
Total	765	4

Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint

	Number of cases dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	185	—
Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	504	—
Total	689	—
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were—		
(a) prescribed	383	—
(b) obtained	340	27

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospital	Not available	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	295	—

Child Guidance Treatment

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics... ..	49	—

Speech Therapy

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	24	—

Other Treatment given

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments... ..	3,054	53
(b) Other than (a) above specify:—		
1. Eye Disease (external)... ..	261	7
2. Ear Defects	251	7
3.		
4.		
5.		
Total	3,566	67

Infestation with Vermin

- (i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons 37,849
- (ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested 379
- (iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued 41
- (iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued 4

No legal proceedings were instituted against parents under provisions of Section 54 of the Education Act.



